

The Bible and the Future

This outline is designed to accompany the audio messages entitled "The Bible and the Future," a three-part audio recording available at www.bbcspringfield.com.

I. The Future of World History

A. tribulation and Tribulation

1. The Scriptures assure the people of God that tribulation and trial are the normal experience in this life.
 - i. John 16:33, Romans 5:3-5
2. The Scriptures also teach that there is going to be a time of Tribulation, worse than anything the world has ever seen, that immediately precedes the return of Jesus Christ.
 - i. Matthew 24:1-31 (see esp. vv. 21-22)

B. antichrist and Antichrist

1. Many antichrists in the world in this age
 - i. There have been many people (and many things) which have promised to deliver what only Christ can deliver. This is antichrist.
 - ii. 1 John 2:18
2. The Antichrist of the Tribulation -- In the time of Tribulation that comes at the end, a person will be on the scene who is the ultimate and final Antichrist.
 - i. The Prince who is to come (Daniel 9:25-27)
 - ii. The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)
 - iii. The Beast out of the Sea (Revelation 13)

C. Return of Christ

1. After the Tribulation, Jesus will return to the earth in power and great glory, defeating his enemies and setting up his royal throne on the earth.
2. Revelation 19:11-21

D. Millennium - Christ reigns over the nations for 1,000 years

1. Revelation 20:1-6
2. Isaiah 11 -- This chapter describes a time when the curse is reversed and the world situation is near perfect. But there are still hints at rebellion and even warfare.

3. Zechariah 14 -- Jesus returns and establishes his reign, defeating his enemies. Vv. 16 and following describe the conditions for those who are still Christ's enemies, yet are subject to his reign.

E. New heavens and New earth

1. Revelation 21-22

II. The Future of Individual Christians

A. Death

1. Hebrews 9:27

B. Intermediate State (Heaven)

1. When the body dies, the spirit departs the body and is in the presence of the Lord.
 - i. This is a temporary arrangement.
 - ii. In this state, believers await the resurrection of the body
2. 2 Corinthians 5:6-8
3. Philippians 1:23-24

C. The Resurrection

1. This resurrection takes place at the Return of Jesus to earth, when he defeats his enemies.
 - i. The resurrected persons will be in their perfect, glorified state on earth, reigning with Christ over the nations during the millennium.
 - ii. These resurrected persons will also live in the New Heavens and New Earth with Christ for eternity.
2. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
3. 1 Corinthians 15:50-58